

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 255
By Wilder

A RESOLUTION to provide for the erection of historical markers commemorating the "Night Attack on Rives Farm."

WHEREAS, it is the policy of this General Assembly to provide for the erection of appropriate markers to commemorate significant events in this state's panoramic history; and

WHEREAS, the Civil War incident commonly referred to as the "Night Attack on Rives Farm" is historically significant for several reasons; and

WHEREAS, the "Night Attack on Rives Farm" featured the most intense guerilla warfare between Union and Confederate forces during the Civil War and also involved one of the first train robberies in West Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, following a train robbery near Moscow, Fayette County in March 1863, a detachment of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry pursued the local partisans who had robbed the train and after failing to immediately capture them, camped near Rives Farm at a site which is located, in terms of today's geographical description, across Interstate 40 from Longtown in the turn of Poindexter Road; and

WHEREAS, while the Union forces slept, the 12th Tennessee Cavalry ambushed them, killing and wounding 55 Union men; the Federals returned fire, killing one major and wounding several other Confederate officers and soldiers; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that the essential facts and historical significance of this important Civil War incident should be preserved for the edification and appreciation of present and future generations; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Tennessee Historical Commission is hereby directed to erect appropriate historical markers commemorating the "Night Attack on Rives Farm" on State Route 59, both northbound and southbound, at such route's intersection with Interstate Highway 40 at Exit 35 in Fayette County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That in addition to directional language relative to the geographical location of such Civil War incident, such historical markers shall contain substantially the following language:

Night Attack at Rives Farm

After 50 miles of forced march in pursuit of local guerillas who had robbed a train and passengers near Moscow, in March 1863, a detachment of the Sixth Illinois Cavalry camped 200 yards north on the Rives Farm. While they slept, members of Col. Robert V. Richardson's notorious Twelfth Tennessee Cavalry, crept up a ravine and opened fire with shotgun and pistol, killing and wounding 55 Union men, including Lt. Jesse Wilson. The Federals returned fire and killed Maj. Berry Benson of the Twelfth and wounded Col. Richardson and others.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the erection of such historical markers shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall become operative only if the Federal Highway Administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this resolution shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Tennessee Historical Commission.